

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11096 191010Z

16-11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 670
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11096

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOR CODEL EAGLETON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IN, US
SUBJECT: BANGLADESH COUP: INDIAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS

1. CONGEN CALCUTTA HAS A REPORT FROM A SOURCE WHO LIVES NEAR THE BANGLADESH BORDER THAT INDIAN BORDER POLICE AND POSSIBLY REGULAR ARMY FORCES ARE BEING STRENGTHENED IN THE BORDER AREA. PURPOSE IS BELIEVED TO BE TO PREVENT AN INFUX OF HINDU REFUGEES FOLLOWING THE BANGLADESH COUP. THERE ARE MANY RUMORS CIRCULATING IN CALCUTTA, BUT THE CONSENSUS OF AVAILABLE OPINION IS THAT WHATEVER MILITARY MOVEMENT MAY BE TAKING PLACE IS INTENDED TO PREVENT THE MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES INTO WEST BENGAL AND NOT IN PREPARATION FOR INDIAN ARMY INTERVENTION IN BANGLADESH.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 11096 191010Z

2. CONGEN CALCUTTA ALSO HAS A REPORT WHICH IT EVALUATES AS RE-

LIABLE THAT AT MEETING AUGUST 15 WITH EDITORS OF LEADING PAPERS IN CALCUTTA, WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER RAY TOLD THEM THE BORDER WITH BANGLADESH HAS BEEN SEALED BY INDIA TO PREVENT REFUGEES FROM CROSSING INTO INDIA. RAY URGED EDITORS TO PRINT NOTHING ABOUT POSSIBLE HINDU-MOSLEM STRIFE IN BANGLADESH, PRESUMABLY IN ORDER TO AVOID AROUSING COMMUNAL DIFFICULTIES IN WEST BENGAL, AND ASKED THEM NOT TO TAKE ISSUE WITH INDIA'S ACTION SEALING THE BORDER.

3. EMBASSY DAO REPORTS THAT THERE ARE NO RPT NO INDICATIONS IN DELHI OF PREPARATIONS FOR INDIAN ARMY INTERVENTION IN BANGLADESH.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY THE CONSUL GENERAL, GENERAL JACOBS,

COMMANDER OF INDIAN ARMY UNITS IN THE EASTERN REGION, SAID ON AUGUST 16 THAT THE INDIAN ARMY HAD NOT TAKEN ANY SPECIAL MEASURES. THE PARAGRAPH ONE INFORMATION POST DATESTHE CONSUL GENERAL'S CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL JACOBS.

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